



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – Opening of Apache Devil's Creek Gas Plant

**Remarks of Ambassador Bleich
at the Opening of Apache Devil's Creek Gas Plant, Karratha**

(As prepared for delivery – February 25, 2011)

Hon. Colin Barnett, the Premier of Western Australia

Honorable members of the Federal, State, and Local government

Executives and Board members of Apache and Santos

Other honored guests and friends.

First of all, congratulations. Success has many parents, and I know that many of you have had a hand in bringing this project to fruition. But let me offer special congratulations to Steven Farris and Tom Maher (from Apache) and to John Anderson (from Santos) who are clearly the plants fathers. Your hard work and dedication have produced a plant that will help fuel WA's spectacular growth for decades to come. I also want to give a special congratulations to Maria Maher – I'm sure it will be nice to have Tom home a little more now that the plant is up and running. You and other partners have also sacrificed – spending many long days and nights keeping up with every other task. And so thank you for that effort, and congratulations on getting your loved ones back a little more.

Finally, I just want to thank you all for getting me out of Canberra this weekend. This event has many great aspects – but the fact that there's no access to a television set out here is probably the one I'm appreciating most.

Being out here truly reminds us of what matters. Our lives – every aspect of our lives – depend on access to energy. And our futures depend upon producing more energy, more cleanly, cheaply, and sustainably. Too few people who talk about energy and argue about energy actually have the chance to come out and see how it is produced. And so it is a privilege to see first-hand the breath-taking size and scale of yet another great energy development here in WA.

WA is part of our future -- with its abundant clean energy gas reserves, its tradition of no-nonsense governance, its can do attitude -- the state is set to be a key global energy supplier and a leader in the transition to clean energy. Devil Creek Gas Plant is



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particularly impressive as a greenfields project: it breaks new ground, adds a third source of natural gas supply to industry and other customers in WA.

The U.S. government and our business leaders see that our future depends on these efforts. That’s why in the two years that I’ve been Ambassador, I’ve been up here over a dozen times. And why I’ll keep coming up here.

The depth of America’s commitment though isn’t measured in visits or in words. It is through our long-term investments that we truly show our commitment. American companies like Apache are betting hard on Western Australia’s future in energy, ensuring that it has the resources it needs to fuel that tremendous resource industries here, the growing population, and ensure energy security.

The U.S. remains the largest foreign investor in the natural gas industry in Australia, the largest foreign direct investor in Western Australia (\$120 billion 2010), and it is by far the largest foreign investor in all of Australia. In fact, the U.S. investment in Australia is 30 times that of China. Apache and Santos’ nearly \$1 billion investment in Devil Creek is further tangible proof that we are all-in here in WA.

So on behalf of the President, the U.S. Government, and the American people, I’d like to extend my warmest congratulations to Apache and Santos – as well as the people of Western Australia – for this milestone achievement today.